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JOURNAL

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AVMA GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DIVISION

Dr. Lawrence E. Miller, 1023 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005-2602. Telephone: 202-659-2040.

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VBPA

Sources of federal employment opportunities for veterinarians

Edward L. Menning, DVM, MPH

To apply to get on the federal register for the Veterinary Medical Science Series, GS 701, which includes all traditional veterinary positions such as meat/poultry inspection, pathology, brucellosis/tuberculosis control, animal welfare, and animal drug and biologics control, veterinarians should apply to the following office, which handles all federal civilian veterinary job opportunities:

US Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Personnel Operations Branch-Special Examining Unit
Butler Square West
100 N Sixth St
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-2064

This application costs nothing and makes you available for hire more rapidly.

A veterinarian <1 year out of school with no specialized training may be offered GS-9 positions ($22,907/year for 1988). Any veterinarian ≥1 year out of school is eligible for GS-11 positions ($27,716/year for 1988). With specialized training and experience, higher level positions would be offered (Table 1).

When completing your application forms to be placed on the federal register, be sure you do not limit your list of experiences and education only to medical/technical areas. Federal agencies will be needing many of your talents in management, supervision, writing, problem solving, and speaking. You should stress courses or experiences you have had in these areas, in addition to your medical expertise.

If you want a federal job, you should consider accepting the most desirable one available, even though it may not be your ideal. By "getting into the system," many other federal positions will be available to you. Federal jobs generally are advertised in 4 categories: (1) only employees of the agency concerned, such as meat/poultry inspection, may apply, (2) only employees of the department, such as USDA, may apply, (3) all government-wide veterinarians may apply, or (4) veterinarians from all sources may apply. Over 75% of all jobs open are in categories 1, 2, and 3. Category 4 is the only category for which veterinarians who are not presently employed by the federal government may apply. Once employed, at least category 3 would be open to you and, depending on the agency you are with, all may be open to you (Table 2).

Following are addresses and phone numbers for most individual federal agency employment offices. Where available, a contact who is knowledgeable about jobs of interest to veterinarians is listed.

Table 1—New pay schedule (dollars/yr) for classified (GS) employees effective January 1988

	Steps									
GS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	9,811	10,139	10,465	10,791	11,117	11,309	11,631	11,955	11,970	12,275
2	11,032	11,294	11,659	11,970	12,103	12,459	12,815	13,171	13,527	13,883
3	12,038	12,439	12,840	13,241	13,642	14,043	14,444	14,845	15,246	15,647
4	13,513	13,963	14,413	14,863	15,313	15,763	16,213	16,663	17,113	17,563
5	15,118	15,622	16,126	16,630	17,134	17,638	18,142	18,646	19,150	19,654
6	16,851	17,413	17,975	18,537	19,099	19,661	20,223	20,785	21,347	21,909
7	18,726	19,350	19,974	20,598	21,222	21,846	22,470	23,094	23,718	24,342
8	20,739	21,430	22,121	22,812	23,503	24,194	24,885	25,576	26,267	26,958
9	22,907	23,671	24,435	25,199	25,963	26,727	27,491	28,255	29,019	29,783
10	25,226	26,067	26,908	27,749	28,590	29,431	30,272	31,113	31,954	32,795
11	27,716	28,640	29,564	30,488	31,412	32,336	33,260	34,184	35,108	36,032
12	33,218	34,325	35,432	36,539	37,646	38,753	39,860	40,967	42,074	43,181
13	39,501	40,818	42,135	43,452	44,769	46,086	47,403	48,720	50,037	51,354
14	46,679	48,235	49,791	51,347	52,903	54,459	56,015	57,571	59,127	60,683
15	54,907	56,737	58,567	60,397	62,227	64,057	65,887	67,717	69,547	71,377
16	64,397	66,544	68,691	70,838	72,500	73,660*	75,765*	77,870*	79,975*	
17	73,958*	76,423*	78,888*	81,353*	83,818*					
18	86,682*									

*The rate of basic pay payable to employees at these rates is limited to the rate for level V of the Executive Schedule, which is $72,500.

Dr. Menning is Executive Vice President, National Association of Federal Veterinarians, 1023 15th St NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005-2602.

US Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Personnel Operations Branch
Butler Square West
100 N Sixth St
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-2024

The FSIS involves mainly meat/poultry inspection but some science and administrative positions are available.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Field Servicing Office
Butler Square West
100 N Sixth St
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-2182

The APHIS involves mainly animal disease control and animal welfare, but some research, science, and administrative positions are available.

Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
Administration Operations Division (ACD)
Bldg 003-BARC West
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 344-2701
Vacancy recording
(301) 344-2288

In ARS, animal disease research positions are available.

Food and Drug Administration

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
5600 Fishers Ln
Rockville, MD 20857
(301) 443-1970
Attn: Ms. Nancy Altman
Vacancy recording:
(301) 443-1969

Positions with the FDA involve evaluating animal drug efficacy, safety, and residues.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

For strictly veterinary civil service:

US Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Personnel Operations Branch-Special Examining Unit
Butler Square West
100 N Sixth St
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-2064

Table 2—Number of federally employed veterinarians in April 1988

Agency	Military rank (GS or GM grade) 0–1 (9)	0–2 (11)	0–3 (12)	0–4 (13)	0–5 (14)	0–6 (15)	0–7 (16–18) or SES	Total
USDA								
FSIS	14	222	720	232	45	16	12	1,261
APHIS	16	42	276	92	86	38	24	574
ARS	1	11	13	10	10	16	5	66
OICD					1			1
CSRS						1		1
ADC							1	1
Extension service (120 veterinarians, full-time equivalent of)								80
Total								1,984
Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS)								
FDA	1	5	5	33	21	13	5	83
NIH		4	8	16	17	27	1	73
CDC		4	4	8	6	10	1	33
HRSA						1		1
ADAMHA				1	1			2
EPA*					1	3	1	5
USUHS*						1		1
PAHO*						1		1
Total								199
Department of Defense (DOD)								
US Army								
Military		5	220	102	76	41	1	445
Civilian							1	1
US Air Force								
Military			34	36	32	24		126
Civilian				3	2		1	6
US Navy								
Civilian						2		2
Total								580
Department of Interior								
Fish and Wildlife Service		2	2	6	1			11
Department of Commerce								
National Marine Mammal Laboratory					1			1
National Marine Fish Service			1	1				2
Total								3
USAID						1		1
Veterans Administration			2	6	1	1		10
Smithsonian (Zoo)				1		2		3
US Senate							1	1
Total	**32**	**295**	**1,285**	**547**	**301**	**198**	**54**	**2,792**

GS = General schedule; GM = General merit; SES = Senior Executive Service; OICD = Office of Internal Cooperation and Development; CSRS = Cooperative State Research Service; ADC = Animal Damage Control; HRSA = Health Resources and Service Administration; ADAMHA = Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration; EPA = Environmental Protection Agency; PAHO = Pan American Health Organization.
*Agency not in DHHS but DHHS people assigned.

For all other biological sciences:

National Institutes of Health
Recruitment and Employee Benefits Branch, NIH
Bldg 31, Room B-3, C 15
Bethesda, MD 20892
(301) 496-2403
Vacancy recording:
(301) 496-1209

These are science, laboratory animal, research, and epidemiology positions.

For Commissioned Officers in Uniformed Services Public Health Service (USPHS):

Commissioned Personnel Operations
Parklawn Bldg, Room 4-35
5600 Fishers Ln
Rockville, MD 20857
(301) 443-3087

These positions are for Commissioned Officers and include mainly biomedical animal research and epidemiology.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Rd, NW
Atlanta, GA 30333

All veterinary positions are Commissioned Officer positions (see NIH address for Commissioned Officers).

For civil service positions in other biological sciences, you should contact:

Centers for Disease Control
Attn: Personnel Management Office
1600 Clifton Rd, NW
Atlanta, GA 30333
(404) 329-3615

These positions involve mainly in infectious disease, epidemiology, and science.

US Army Veterinary Corps

Veterinarians must contact a regional army medical recruiter for hire. For general veterinary hiring information, veterinarians can write or call the following:

USA TAPA
DAPC-OPH-VC
Hoffman II, Rm 9N57
200 Stovall St
Alexandria, VA 22332-0400
(703) 325-2360
Contact: Col. William B. Smith

For duty to country and supplemental income of several thousand dollars per year contact:

Army National Guard Bureau
Maj. Lee Burrows
HQDA (SGPF-PDM-M)
1900 Half St, SW
Washington, DC 20324-2000
(202) 475-0918 or (202) 465-1508

Army Reserves
Health Profession Support Agency (HPSA)
Attn: SGPS-PDB
511 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3258
(703) 756-8122

US Air Force Biomedical Science Corps

Positions for veterinarians only as Environmental Health Officers:

Chief Environmental Health
Headquarters USAF SGPA
Bolling AFB, DC 20332
(202) 767-1238
Contact: Col. Richard L. Shafer

For duty to country and supplemental income of several thousand dollars per year contact:

Air National Guard (ANG)
Capt. Thomas E. Rentz
ANGSC/MPRM Stop #18
Andrews AFB, MD 20331
(301) 981-6716

Air Force Reserve (AFRes)
Maj. Lee Murphy
ARPC/SGPH
Denver, CO 80280-5000
1-800-525-0102 (Ext 232)

US Department of Interior

US Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Personnel Operations Branch-Special Examining Unit
Butler Square West
100 N Sixth St
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 370-2064
Contact: Dr. Louis Locke
(608) 271-4640

These are mainly fish and wildlife related positions.

US Agency for International Development (AID)

These food animal science related positions are overseas and are few in number. Your best bet is to call the listed offices for information:

African Bureau	(202) 647-8813
Asian Bureau	(202) 647-8262
Latin American/Caribbean Bureau	(202) 647-5680
Science/Technology Bureau	(202) 647-1827

US Department of Commerce

National Marine Mammal Laboratory and
National Marine Fisheries Service

These marine jobs are related to research or inspection of fish or research about marine mammals. These come under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For openings, contact the office in region(s) of interest.

NOAA, Western Administrative Support Center
Personnel Division, RAS/WC2
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070
(206) 526-6056

NOAA, Mountain Administrative Support Center
Personnel Division, RAS/MC2
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 497-6305

NOAA, Central Administrative Support Center
Personnel Division, RAS/CC2
Federal Bldg, Room 1740
601 E 12th St
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 374-2056

NOAA, Eastern Administrative Support Center
Personnel Division, RAS/EC2
253 Monticello Ave, Room 413
Norfolk, VA 23510
(804) 441-6516

Veterans Administration

Veterans Administration
Chief Veterinary Medical Officer
810 Vermont Ave, NW, Room 15E
Washington, DC 20420
Contact: Dr. Donald D. Holmes
(202) 223-5174

All of these positions are in laboratory animal medicine.

Other career fields

For career fields other than series 701 (Veterinary Medical Science) for which veterinarians may be eligible, such as wildlife biology, food technology, and

Table 3—Additional jobs for which veterinarians may be eligible by their training in basic science

GS series No.	Job title
018	Occupational Safety and Health (Biosafety Officer)
340	Program Management
401	General Biological Science
403	Microbiology
405	Pharmacology
410	Zoology
413	Physiology
440	Genetics
480	General Fish and Wildlife Administration
482	Fishery Biology
486	Wildlife Biology
487	Husbandry (Animal Scientist)
601	General Health Science (Epidemiology)
685	Public Health Program Specialist
696	Consumer Safety
1083	Technical Writing and Editing
1301	General Physical Science
1306	Health Physics
1382	Food Technology
1712	Educator/Teaching
1863	Food Inspector

physiology, you will have to contact a different area office to be placed on the register (Table 3).

When positions for the series in Table 3 are located in medical and public health federal agencies, veterinarians could often qualify, assuming experience and longevity also are met. Remember that different offices handle various of these series. The office that handles veterinary medical science (GS 701) cannot help you with general health science (GS 601), or vice versa.

Going to a different area personnel office is made more difficult because there is not a list of which office handles which career fields. Therefore, contact specific agencies and/or go to your state's US Employment Service (Federal Job Opportunities Office) where a computerized list of all federal vacancies is kept and from whom you can then request further information on where to apply for specific jobs.

Additional Source of Information

The following corporation has information available, for a fee, to assist anyone in finding and/or applying for federal jobs:

Federal Research Service, Inc (not a government agency)
PO Box 1059
Vienna, VA 22180-1059
(703) 281-0200

The following brochures may be purchased from the above:

Federal Career Opportunities—The job listing brings the vacancies to you. 3,400+ currently available federal jobs, nationwide and overseas; General Schedule (GS) grades 5 through Senior Executive Service (SES); updated and published every two weeks; organized by GS series within each agency; complete application mailing addresses, personal contacts and phone numbers when available; 64-page; bi-weekly.

Federal Job Application Forms Kit—The expanded SF 171 forms package provides your personal supply of application forms. The SF 171 is the standard form required to be completed for all federal employment. New, revised SF 171 and handy preparation check list; expanded SF 171 pages; general purpose performance appraisals; education supplement form 16 pages.

Federal Job Winner's Tips—The SF 171 essentials gives you the key ingredients for a winning SF 171. How to develop experience descriptions that sell your skills; identify and prioritize your duties, responsibilities and accomplishments; use training, awards and references to your advantage; dos and don'ts of an effective SF 171; 16 pages.

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TO ORDER: Fill in this form and mail it, with your check to:

American Veterinary Medical Association
930 N Meacham Rd, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

Please send me, postpaid, the following number(s) of pamphlets: (Price is $5.00/hundred.)

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_____TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET
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_____PETHOOD OR PARENTHOOD
_____CANINE PARVOVIRUS
_____BUYING A HORSE
_____INTERNAL PARASITES IN HORSES
_____ENTEROTOXEMIA IN SHEEP
_____MASTITIS IN DAIRY COWS
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_____CANCER IN ANIMALS
_____SLOW VIRUS DISEASES OF SMALL RUMINANTS

Enclosed is my check for $_____

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Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

(Deliveries made by UPS—Please give street address, not P.O. Box Number)